

Report to the Twenty-Second Legislature
Regular Session of 2004

on

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MASTER PLAN
FOR POHOIKI BOAT RAMP**



Prepared by the
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation
State of Hawaii

in response to
Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 118, Senate Draft 1
Regular Session of 1999

December 2003

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE
TWENTY-SECOND STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION 2004
ON
THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MASTER PLAN
FOR POHOIKI BOAT RAMP**

This report is submitted in response to Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) No. 118, Senate Draft (SD) 1, Regular Session of 1999, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COUNTY OF HAWAII AND ALL CONCERNED PARTIES TO DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR KEEPING POHOIKI BOAT RAMP SAFE AND CLEAN NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

I. BACKGROUND

SCR 118, SD1, was adopted in response to community concerns over the potentially dangerous conflicts between boat launching activities at Pohoiki Boat Ramp and other recreational activities taking place within Isaac Hale Beach Park. Although the Pohoiki Boat Ramp is owned and maintained by the State, it is physically located within Isaac Hale Beach Park that is operated and maintained by the County of Hawaii

The primary factors that contribute to congestion and heavy use by conflicting activities are: (1) The Pohoiki Boat Ramp provides the closest boating access to the rich, off-shore fishing grounds of the southeast coast of the Island of Hawaii; and (2) Isaac Hale Beach Park is the only remaining beach park facility in the area that is available to local residents following the destruction of Kaimu Beach Park, Harry K. Brown Beach Park and Kalapana Beach Park by the 1992 lava flow.

The subject SCR requested the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to submit annual progress reports to the Legislature until a master plan is developed for Pohoiki boat ramp that is acceptable to all concerned parties.

II. STATUS REPORT

DLNR's previous reports to the Twenty-First Legislature, Regular Session of 2002, summarized discussions with the County of Hawaii's Department of Parks and Recreation regarding its Master Plan for the proposed addition of the Pohoiki Boat Ramp to Isaac Hale Beach Park, and described how the County's planned improvements were expected to help relieve some of the congestion in the immediate vicinity of the Boat Ramp. The 2002 Report to the Legislature indicated that DLNR was not able to obtain the necessary funding to develop the Master Plan requested by SCR No. 118, SD1.

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Act 177, Session Laws of Hawaii 2002, appropriated \$800,000 for plans, design, and improvements to the Pohoiki Boat Ramp. Of this amount, \$200,000 will be provided by the State and \$600,000 will be provided through federal matching funds.

Governor Benjamin J. Cayetano approved the release of funds for this project on November 29, 2002. The firm of Wilson Okamoto & Associates, Inc., has been selected to perform the planning and design of the improvements. The planning and design contract is expected to be executed by the end of December 2003.

The County of Hawaii's Department of Parks and Recreation has provided DLNR with a copy of the Master Plan for the Isaac Hale Beach Park Expansion, as well as the preliminary design drawings for the first phase of the proposed expansion. DLNR is pleased to note that several proposed improvements are expected to be instrumental in alleviating many of the conflicts between park users and boaters using the ramp facilities that prompted the adoption of SCR No. 118, Senate Draft 1. These improvements include: (1) Improvements to the access road to the ramp; (2) New parking areas, including truck and trailer stalls; and (3) New boat wash-down facilities.

DLNR plans to schedule a joint state and county information meeting with the Community prior to the end of the Third Quarter, Fiscal Year 2004. The purpose of the meeting will be to obtain community input and suggestions on how best to integrate the improvements proposed for this project with the existing infrastructure and facilities at Isaac Hale Beach Park, and the County of Hawaii's planned improvements to the addition to the Park, in a manner that will best accomplish the purpose and intent of SCR No. 118, SD1, within the funds available.

